

Submitter: Daniel Spatz

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital
Construction

Measure: HB5030

Dear Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

My name is Daniel Spatz. I serve Columbia Gorge Community College as capital projects and community relations director. In that role I've worked with Nancey Patten, director of Child Care Partners Resource & Referral, Supt. Pat Sublette of Columbia Gorge Education Service District, and multiple other community partners over the past three years to explore solutions to our region's child care desert. The scarcity of affordable public child care is a social issue, a family issue, and an economic issue. I often speak with industry leaders. Their greatest challenges in terms of employee recruitment and retention are affordable housing and affordable child care. Expansion of our economy demands that we address both of those urgent needs. Section 7 of HB 5030, the Child Care Facility Capacity Program Fund, would provide an important resource to help resolve the child care crisis. In The Dalles we propose to renovate a former middle school as a large capacity, affordable public child care center. It will require significant capital outlay to convert an old middle school into an early learning center. We anticipate a \$15 million project. We are requesting \$7 million from the state. The result will be restoration of an historic building to meet a substantial community need for children in our region. Once we get it done, our community partners stand ready to help sustain operations, affordably for working families. That's our goal. Section 7 of HB 5030 will help us get there. I encourage your support of this project and of \$100 million total funding for House Bill 3005. Thank you.